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4

DWR-117

DRAFT Adaptive Management Framework for the California Water Fix (CWF) and BiOps (5-26-16)

III. CURRENT EFFORTS

Important efforts are underway to implement science-based adaptive management to improve scientific basis of operational decisions on annual or multi-year time scales. The Adaptive Management Program will build on and augment the existing and planned efforts summarized below that are developing and implementing science to apply adaptive management principles to the Delta ecosystem. As the Adaptive Management Program is developed, specific linkage to each of these efforts will be defined.

A. Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Independent Science Board (DISB) and Delta Science Program (DSP)

- Established by 2009 Delta Reform Act, the Delta Stewardship Council is charged with achieving the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.
- The DISB provides a standing board of nationally or internationally prominent scientists with appropriate expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta. The DISB will provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs and reports to the Delta Stewardship Council.
- The Delta Independent Science Board (DISB) in January 2016 provided insights regarding the way adaptive management has been applied to the Delta ecosystem as well as a number of recommendations for future implementation, in their report titled "Improving Adaptive Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Key findings and recommendations included:
 - Agencies must become more actively engaged in collaborations;
 - Adaptive Management must be identified as a high Priority;
 - Support Adaptive Management with dependable and flexible funding;
 - Design and support monitoring to fit the magnitude of management actions and timing of ecosystem processes;
 - Develop a framework for setting decision points or thresholds that would trigger a management response;
 - Use restoration sites to test adaptive management and monitoring protocols.
- The Delta Science Program's mission is to provide the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta region.
- The Delta Science Program's objectives are:
 - Initiate, evaluate and fund research that will fill critical gaps in the understanding of the current and changing Bay-Delta system.
 - Facilitate analysis and synthesis of scientific information across disciplines.
 - Promote and provide independent, scientific peer review of processes, plans, programs, and products.
 - Coordinate with agencies to promote science-based adaptive management.
 - Interpret and communicate scientific information to policy- and decision-makers, scientists, and the public.
 - Foster activities that build the community of Delta science.

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